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THE UNIVERSITY
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at CHAPEL HILL



Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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EVENTS

Psychology Club
November 17 | 5:30 pm
Davie 112

Psychology FIRSTS
November 19 | 3:30 pm
Davie 228

Neuroscience Club
November 23 | 7:30 pm
Union 3205



Student Spotlight

Meet **Olivia Sawh**, a senior Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Neuroscience. Olivia is working on a collaborative project with Dr. Kelly Giovanello and Dr. Peter Ornstein.

Tell us about your research. The goal of the Child Memory Project is to examine the neural correlates of episodic memory function in school aged-children. This is accomplished using an association task in which participants must remember pairs of faces and objects. This project has given me the opportunity to be involved with all parts of the research process, including recruiting and scheduling participants, designing and facilitating the memory task, analyzing data, and sharing my results with the lab.

What's the most valuable lesson you've learned from the experience? The improvement in my critical thinking skills. Unlike in laboratory courses, you do not get a lab manual when conducting research; rather, you get the opportunity to design experiments and figure out how to do things on your own.

Do you think people have any misconceptions about undergraduate research? One misconception I had was that it was very difficult to get involved in research. However, UNC is made up of interesting people studying fascinating things, so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved! Look up labs you might be interested in and reach out to the PI. Talk to professors. Check out the undergraduate research website. Talk to friends who have worked in labs. If you are genuinely interested in research, you will find your way.





Confessions of a GILer

Meet **Rowan Hunt**, a Fall 2015 Intern with the Karen M. Gil Internship program in Psychology.

Rowan is working as a Clinical Intern at Veritas Collaborative, a treatment center offering care to children and adolescents with eating disorders. She is spending her time trying to become familiar with the holistic nature of eating disorder treatment. Eating disorders can be a difficult mental illness to treat, because they impact the patient both physically and mentally. In line with their mission of providing best-practice care, Veritas uses a multi-disciplinary approach to providing treatment. Over the past few weeks with Veritas, Rowan has attended multiple trainings, a day-long symposium, observed various therapy groups in the inpatient and partial hospitalization units, and have eaten several meals with patients.



In Rowan's time at UNC, she developed a solid knowledge base of eating disorders and mental health conditions through classes as well as through her participating as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Anna Bardone-Cone's laboratory. She says, "There is a vast difference between learning about eating disorders in class or interacting with participants in a research setting... and actually working with the patients as they receive treatment for their eating disorder. Getting out of the classroom and lab and into the field at Veritas has greatly deepened my understanding of eating disorders—and just how persistent and debilitating of an illness they can be."

Rowan has found her opportunity at Veritas to be invaluable. She says, "My internship has allowed me to see that my hopes of someday being a researcher, a clinician, and an advocate are all within reach—and I have found many people who are doing just that in their work at Veritas!" Our Gil Internship is a rewarding experience! **Read more experiences [online](#)!**

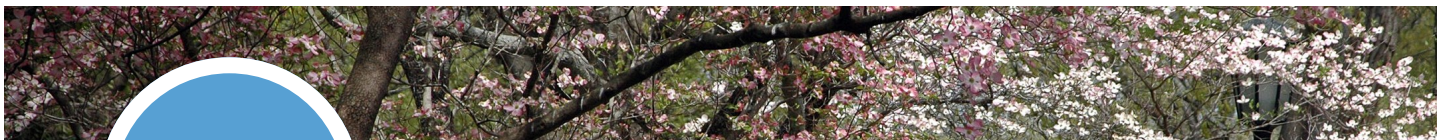
Meet another GILer!

Carisa Ruiz, a Fall 2015 Gil Intern at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD), observes and works with a multitude of groups and clinics, including an adult social skills group, the only Angelman Syndrome clinic in the country, and a school-age clinic. She spends most of her time observing the administration of behavioral and cognitive assessments, scoring assessments, and taking observational notes on clients' behaviors.

On a typical day, Carissa walks into CIDD only knowing which clinic is being held—she only gets a sense of the team's plans when she receives that day's chart reviews. Carisa says, "Each day is a new adventure because every client we see has a unique personality and needs." She enjoys her time at CIDD as the Institute utilizes a multidisciplinary approach in each of their clinics, so she has the opportunity to learn about many fields concurrently. She has received direct clinical experience in psychology, but also social work, speech and language, physical and occupational therapy, and education.



"My absolute favorite part of working at CIDD has been watching the teams come together after a full day of assessments and interviews to collaborate about future recommendations for the client. My internship at the CIDD has solidified my passion for clinical work with people with developmental disabilities." **Our Gil Internship will soon be accepting applications for Fall 2016. [Read more about the program online](#)!**



SURF Awards

Need research experience for graduate school or scholarship applications? Want to earn money over the summer? Have a desire to do something unique?

The Office of Undergraduate Research provides Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows to full-time undergraduates to enhance their educational experience by engaging them in research opportunities.

Attend the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Information session to learn about SURF and ask how the SURF experience can help you reach your goals!

The session will include an overview of the SURF program, advice from former SURF recipients, information on how SURF peer advisors can help you strengthen your research proposal, and expert advice from the Writing Center on crafting your proposal.

The SURF Fellowships are \$3000 and applications are due February 25, 2016.



Join us:

SURF Information Session

Tuesday, January 19

5:00—6:30 PM

FPG Student Union, Room 3411

[Read more information about SURF online!](#)

Jobs & Other Opportunities

Paid summer undergraduate research fellowships are available in 11 University of Kentucky labs studying alcohol-related disorders.

Applications are due February 15, 2016. [Apply online.](#)



A full-time Lab Manager position is available in the Developmental Dynamics Lab at the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.

Bachelor's degree and some previous clinical research experience are required. A background in psychology and/or neuroscience is preferred. [Applications must be submitted online.](#)



The Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology at Weill Cornell Medical College is currently seeking a full-time research assistant to work on research studies of behavioral and brain development in typically developing and clinical populations.

Bachelor's degree required. Familiarity with IRB protocol submissions and research experience highly desirable. Position to start immediately. Contact [Dr. Dylan Gee](#) with questions.



Environment North Carolina, a statewide environmental advocacy group, is currently accepting applications for spring internships.

Environment NC internships are a great opportunity for students to get exposed to the nuts and bolts of environmental activism, organizing, and advocacy. Students get to meet with elected officials, generate mediate on pressing issues, garner support among local businesses and groups, and learn important skills.

Questions should be directed to [Rachel Morales.](#)



The Center for Autism and the Developing Brain (CADB) at Weill Cornell Medical College is looking to fill a Research Aide position immediately.

Minimum requirements include a Bachelor's degree in psychology (or related field) and related experience. CADB highly desires a candidate that has experience with autism or with children and families with developmental disabilities/mental health issues as well as previous research experience.

Please contact Sophy Kim at sok2015@med.cornell.edu for all inquiries and for instructions on how to apply.

